

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-32. (canceled)

Claim 33. (new) A system for fastening at least two panels together, said system comprising:

at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles arranged at the sides of a first panel, and at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles arranged at the sides of a second panel, wherein mutually oppositely disposed retaining profiles on said first panel complement each other such that said second panel, having similar retaining profiles, can be fastened to said first panel;

said oppositely disposed retaining profiles having complementary hook elements that can be hooked one into the other, said complementary hook elements comprising:

a first hook projection connected to the panel by a first leg, said first hook projection having an inclined retaining surface, such that said first hook projection is reduced from its free end towards the first leg; and

a second hook projection connected to the panel by a second leg, said second hook projection having an inclined retaining surface, such that said second hook projection is reduced from its free end towards the second leg, wherein

in an assembled condition the inclined retaining surface of the hook projection on said first panel bears against the retaining surface of the complementary hook projection of the second panel to hold said panels against each other so as to afford a gap-free floor surface; and

the hook projection at the underside of the first panel bears against the leg at the top side of the second panel; and
a space is provided between the hook projection at the top side of the second panel and the leg at the underside of the first panel.

Claim 34. (new) The fastening system according to claim 33 wherein a first retaining profile of the at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles, comprises:

a first hook element formed from the first leg, said first leg projecting approximately perpendicularly from the side of the panel and which is arranged at the top side of the panel, and wherein

said first hook projection faces towards the underside of the panel, and

a second retaining profile of the at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles, which is opposite the first retaining profile, comprises:

a second hook element formed from the second leg, said second leg projecting approximately perpendicularly from the opposite side of the panel and which is arranged at the underside of the panel, and wherein

said second hook projection faces towards the top side of the panel.

Claim 35. (new) The fastening system according to claim 33 wherein the retaining surfaces of the hook projections engage each other such that complementary hook projections can be hooked one into the other only by elastic deformation.

Claim 36. (new) The fastening system according to claim 35 wherein a clearance is provided between the end of the hook projection at the underside of the second panel and the side of the first panel and the end of the hook projection at the top side of the first panel in the assembled condition bears against the second panel at least in the region of the top side of the second panel.

Claim 37. (new) The fastening system according to claim 33 wherein intermediate spaces provided with clearance in the assembled condition of two panels form adhesive pockets.

Claim 38. (new) The fastening system according to claim 33 wherein the panels substantially comprise an MDF, HDF, or chipboard material.

Claim 39. (new) A system for fastening at least two panels together, said system comprising:

at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles arranged at the sides of a first panel, and at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles arranged at the sides of a second panel, wherein mutually oppositely disposed retaining profiles on said first panel complement each other such that said second panel, having similar retaining profiles, can be fastened to said first panel;

said oppositely disposed retaining profiles having complementary hook elements that can be hooked one into the other, said complementary hook elements comprising:

a first hook projection connected to the panel by a first leg, said first hook projection having an inclined retaining surface, such that said first hook projection is reduced from its free end towards the first leg; and

a second hook projection connected to the panel by a second leg, said second hook projection having an inclined retaining surface, such that said second hook projection is reduced from its free end towards the second leg, wherein

in an assembled condition the retaining surface of the hook projection on said first panel bears against the retaining surface of the complementary hook projection of the second panel to hold said panels against each other so as to afford a gap-free floor surface; and

the hook projection at the top side of the first panel bears against the leg at the underside of the second panel; and

a space is provided between the hook projection at the underside of the second panel and the leg at the underside of the first panel.

Claim 40. (new) The fastening system according to claim 39 wherein a first retaining profile of the at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles, comprises:

a first hook element formed from the first leg, said first leg projecting approximately perpendicularly from the side of the panel and which is arranged at the top side of the panel, and wherein

said first hook projection faces towards the underside of the panel, and

a second retaining profile of the at least one pair of oppositely disposed retaining profiles, which is opposite the first retaining profile, comprises:

a second hook element formed from the second leg, said second leg projecting approximately perpendicularly from the opposite side of the panel and which is arranged at the underside of the panel, and wherein said second hook projection faces towards the top side of the panel.

Claim 41. (new) The fastening system according to claim 39 wherein the retaining surfaces of the hook projections engage each other such that complementary hook projections can be hooked one into the other only by elastic deformation.

Claim 42. (new) The fastening system according to claim 41 wherein a clearance is provided between the end of the hook projection at the underside of the second panel and the side of the first panel and the end of the hook projection at the top side of the first panel in the assembled condition bears against the second panel at least in the region of the top side of the second panel.

Claim 43. (new) The fastening system according to claim 39 wherein intermediate spaces provided with clearance in the assembled condition of two panels form adhesive pockets.

Claim 44. (new) The fastening system according to claim 39 wherein the panels substantially comprise an MDF, HDF, or chipboard material.